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WHO WAS MAJOR THE LORD ST. OSWALD?

Michael Hodder

Anyone interested in 1794 large cents, 1795 half dollars, 1794 dollars, or the history of the First United States Mint probably thinks he already knows who St. Oswald was. Major Rowland Denys Guy Winn, M.C., Fourth Baron St. Oswald, collected coins in the 1790's. In October 1795, he traveled to Philadelphia and obtained many coins directly from the Mint. Nearly 200 years later, an ancestor of his consigned his collection to Christie's for sale. His collection included two outstanding 1794 dollars, several uncirculated 1795 half dollars, and about 20 exceptional 1794 large cents, some with mint color still remaining. Total face value of St. Oswald's coins was \$10.

The auction of the St. Oswald collection was held in London on Tuesday, October 13, 1964. Christie's realized that the United States coins in the collection were important (after their cataloguer, Baldwin's, told them) and publicized the sale accordingly. The firm, however, did not realize just how important the coins were to American collectors, and when the first 1794 dollar was hammered for £4,000 gasps were heard in the auction room. Prices realized continued strong throughout the offering, lots being snapped up by Baldwin's (bidding for the Norwebs), Leo Ostheimer, Harvey Stack, and Lester Merkin. When the hammer prices of all St. Oswald's coins were totaled, it was found that they had realized in excess of £25,000 (\$72,000 at the time).

When the St. Oswald coins returned to America they were intently studied, for they included some specimens that were among the finest known of their type or variety. Walter Breen carefully examined the Bolender 7 1795 dollar and in his *Encyclopedia of United States and Colonial Proof Coins, 1722-1977* declared that it had good claims to being a presentation strike. He wrote that the coin was presented to St. Oswald on the occasion of his visit to the United States Mint. Although it had probably been struck earlier than St. Oswald's visit, Breen wrote that it had been made for presentation purposes and that visit provided the occasion.

CATALOGUE OF

English, Foreign and
Important
American Coins*The Property of*

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removed from

Nostell Priory, Wakefield, Yorkshire

which will be sold at Auction by

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Breen then described several of the technical details he noted on the coin that established its presentation status to his satisfaction (burnished blank, polished dies, exceptional sharpness, possible double striking).

Since the St. Oswald sale in 1964 several of his coins have been re-sold in auctions in the United States. In each case, the St. Oswald coins were described as having one of the most illustrious pedigree chains known: from the United States Mint in 1795 to Major the Lord St. Oswald to Christies' sale in 1964. The Norweb 1794 S-67 Cent and 1794 B-1 Dollar, Superior's 1794 Dollar from the Gilhousen Sale, and Heritage's 1795 O-112 Half Dollar in their February 1995 Long Beach Sale, were all so described. Very few other American coins can claim such a close connection to the Mint and their time of striking. Very few coins can claim an unbroken, documented pedigree chain back to the United States Mint.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

£4000

- 137 U.S.A., DOLLAR, 1794 (Bolender p. 17)—*in mint state and showing original planchet marks, very well struck for this rarity*

See Plate IV

£4000

- 138 U.S.A., DOLLAR, 1794—a *similar coin, in mint state and with fewer planchet marks than last, but slight scratches on obverse and some rim damage on reverse, very well struck*

See Plate IV

There's just one small problem with all this. Major the Lord St. Oswald was not a coin collector. He did not travel to Philadelphia in 1795. In fact, he was not even born until 1916.

Major Sir Rowland Denys Guy Winn, M.C., Fourth Baron St. Oswald, was born in 1916 and died in 1984. His biography can be read in *The Dictionary of National Biography*. Even if he was not a collector, he led a very colorful and exciting life. In the late 1930's he was a war correspondent, reporting from the republican side during the Spanish Civil War. During World War II he served in the elite Coldstream Guards and later in North Africa with the 8th King's Royal Irish Hussars (tank regiment, battle honors include Sidi Rezegh, Relief of Tobruk, Mersa Matruh, and El Alamein). He later joined Special Operations Executive and parachuted into Albania and Yugoslavia in support of Marshal Tito's partisans. After the war he settled in Spain but in 1950 rejoined his regiment and served in Korea, where he won the Military Cross and the Croix de Guerre. He succeeded to his barony in 1957. After a career in appointed political life, he died in 1984.

If Major the Lord St. Oswald did not collect coins in 1795, how did the story that he did get started, how did we find out that it was wrong, and what does this new information mean for the coins incorrectly pedigreed to his collection?

The Christie's sale catalogue stated that the coins being offered in 1964 were "The Property of Major the Lord St. Oswald, M.C., removed from Nostell Priory, Wakefield, Yorkshire." The catalogue implied that all the coins were St. Oswald's property but it did not actually state so (the further implication here is that some United States coins from this sale called "St. Oswald coins" may not actually have been consigned by him). The catalogue did not include a biography of St. Oswald, nor was there an introduction that claimed that the United States coins were obtained by St. Oswald directly from the Mint in 1795.

It appears that there is no obvious reason why Major Sir Rowland Winn's name became associated with a visit to the Philadelphia Mint in 1795. We suspect that what happened to create the erroneous pedigree is as follows. The Christie's sale made a great sensation in the United States when it was announced. Pre-sale word-of-mouth and press publicity was strong and the coin trade press gained a lot of mileage by covering it. One story making the rounds at the time was that the coins in the sale had been collected by an ancestor of Major Winn's. Another was that Major Winn, himself, was the collector. The latter one appealed to collectors and writers, since it had a name attached to it, and it became the now standard story. The outstanding condition of the coins in the collection suggested to some, Walter Breen prominent among them, that those coins had to have been obtained directly from the Mint in 1795 and carefully preserved ever since. Putting two and two together, the finished story had it that Major Winn traveled to Philadelphia in 1795, obtained \$10 worth of United States coins for their curiosity value, and brought them back to his home where succeeding generations preserved them until their sale in 1964.

How did Jack Collins and I figure out that this story was wrong? Purely by serendipity. Jack and I were proofreading the copy for his important book length study on the 1794 Dollar. Most serious numismatists know that Jack and the late Walter Breen collaborated on this work. I was enlisted as editor some time after the book had largely been written. In reading over the pedigrees of the two St. Oswald 1794 dollars listed in the book, I was struck by the "M.C." after Major Winn's name. I remembered reading that the Military Cross was a World War I decoration for bravery awarded to officers. It seemed strange that a major in 1795 should have won the decoration, so I decided to look up its history. Sure enough, I found that the M.C. award was first instituted in 1916. No major active in 1795 could have held the honor, so I realized that there was a mistake somewhere here. Next, I looked up the Winn family name in my *Dictionary of National Biography* and found a family member with exactly the same name, rank, military decoration and civil title as the

fellow on the title page of the Christie's sale catalogue, but one who had died only in 1984. I knew that there now was a serious problem with the St. Oswald pedigree.

I told Jack about what I had found. He suggested that he should write to the Winn family in England and ask their help in unraveling the tangled knot that had been woven around the St. Oswald pedigree. In May of last year, Derek Edward Anthony Winn, Fifth Baron St. Oswald, replied to Jack's letter.

Sir Derek wrote "I'm afraid I have no knowledge of which of my ancestors went to America. I rather doubt whether it was the 6th Baronet as he was never in good health and consequently would not have traveled much. He died as you can see by his dates at the age of 30: unmarried." With the death of the 6th Baronet the direct male line died out, and the title seems to have lapsed. In 1885 the title was revived and elevated to a full barony. Thus, we have the 1st, 2nd, 3rd, etc. Baronets St. Oswald, but after 1885 we start getting the 1st, 2nd, 3rd, etc. Barons St. Oswald.

The 6th Baronet whom Sir Derek mentioned in his letter was also named Sir Rowland Winn, as was his more illustrious descendent, our Major Sir Rowland Winn, M.C. The 6th Baronet was born in 1775 and died in 1805. In 1795 he would have been just 20 years old. Sir Derek tells us that the young man was never well. It is highly unlikely, therefore, that a sickly 20 year old would have boarded ship in Birmingham or London and braved the uncertainties of a sea passage to America, especially not at a time when the seas were patrolled by French warships and Englishmen were none too welcome in America. In fact, it was not at all impossible that war could have broken out between America and Great Britain in 1794-95, over the issues of freedom of the seas and British outposts in the western lands. In addition, the Mint in Philadelphia was hardly on anyone's list of tourist attractions in 1795. The French traveler Moreau de St. Mery, who lived not far away, described it at this time by saying that there was a mint in Philadelphia but it was not very busy and was, as one might say " . . . merely a curiosity."

There was, however, a member of the Winn family who collected coins. His name was Charles Winn, and he was born in 1796 and died in 1884. He did not succeed to the baronetcy because his uncle's death had extinguished the direct male line. Charles appears to have been an enthusiastic collector of all things odd, curious, and fashionable, as were many of his well-to-do Georgian contemporaries. He owned pictures, books, and coins, most of the latter being ancients. It is entirely possible, and quite, likely that Charles was the collector responsible for the United States coins sold by Christie's in 1964. Obviously, Charles could not have traveled to the Mint in 1795 to obtain them, since he was not even born then. More likely, he began collecting coins during or just after his adolescence, say 1814-1820. It is perhaps confirmatory of this supposition to note that his older brother John, who had assumed the family name Winn on the death of the last Baronet St. Oswald,

died in 1817, leaving Charles the closest living male descendant of the extinct male line. Perhaps Charles inherited a fortune at this time, enabling him to collect expensive objects and rebuild the Winn family seat at Nostle Priory.

So, where does all this leave us, and more importantly, the so-called "St. Oswald coins?" It now appears certain the United States coins in the 1964 sale were not obtained directly from the Mint by a St. Oswald family member. They may have been obtained directly from the Mint by someone else, but there is no incontrovertible evidence for this. Between 1794-95 and about 1820, these coins were either in extremely limited circulation or in some unknown person's collection. There is no proof either way. Around 1820, the coins may have been bought by Charles Winn, but there is no evidence of this, either. All we know for sure is that the coins were in the St. Oswald family collection and were consigned for sale in 1964.

Any and all claims of illustrious pedigree and unbroken descent from the United States Mint down to today, the sort that auction cataloguers are so fond of, are unsupported statements at best, poppycock and drivel at worst. Any claims that the St. Oswald 1795 B-7 dollar was a presentation coin have to be carefully reconsidered, because we now lack an occasion for the supposed presentation. More importantly, we have to face the very distinct possibility that the features Breen detected on the coin that suggested a presentation strike may simply have been those of a well made circulation strike of the day.

The United States coins from the 1964 Christie's St. Oswald sale can still be titled "St. Oswald coins," of course, since they were in that family's collection; but they now have no certain, documented, and absolutely believable pedigree any earlier than the ownership of Major the Lord St. Oswald, who consigned them for sale in 1964. Charles Winn's papers survive in the Leeds District Archives. Perhaps some intrepid researcher would like to take his or her vacation in England one year and look through Winn's papers. We might learn a lot more than we know now about the Winn family collection.

DON'T BELIEVE EVERYTHING YOU HEAR ABOUT COINS.

CHECK THE CONTEMPORARY SOURCES FOR FACTS!

P. Scott Rubin

A few years ago I read a press release about one of the two known 1825 over 4 Half Eagles. This was from an auction house that was offering the coin for sale. The coin had been sold as lot 809 in 1978 by Rarcoa as part of the Kaufman collection. They mentioned that the coin was from the John Story Jenks Collection, sold by Henry Chapman in 1921. I found this quite interesting since the Rarcoa

description did not mention this pedigree. I then took out my copy of the Jenks sale and compared the plate to the Kaufman plate. It was obvious that the coin in the Jenks sale could not be the same coin since it was an 1825 over 1. This could be told by the placement of the number 8 compared to the 1 and 2. So how would such an error take place. I would have to guess that in some of the Kaufman family holding was proof that he bought the Jenks coin. What the current company offering the coin did not realize was that the Kaufman sale also included an 1825 over 1 half eagle. On checking the Jenks sale they notice that the coin offered was called an 1825 over 4. What they did not realize was at that time almost all 1825 Half Eagles were called 1825 over 4's since the distinction was not that well known.

The reason I tell this story now is to lead into the fact that some of the legends of famous coins we take for granted are not always based on fact. I will now show two such legends to be false, or at least not one hundred percent accurate.

Let us start with the story that the copies of the 1776 Continental coinage were made by Dickerson for the Centennial in 1876. It is known that dies were prepared by him, and coins in at least white metal were made. The problem with the story is that they were {not} made for the centennial. The proof that this issue was in the hands of collectors years before the one hundredth anniversary of the revolution is shown by their appearance in auction sales as early as 1873. In Edward Cogan's May 19-21, 1873 sale, lots 1484-1485 are described as follows:

"1484. 1776 Dickerson Copy of currency type. Copper. Very fine"

"1485. 1776 Another in white metal. Currency type. Proof"

Not only were these coins known in 1873 but were being offered to collectors in at least two different metals. Since the time needed to prepare for this issue would not have been anywhere near three years, and the fact that Dickerson was selling them prior to 1876 shows that he was not waiting for this celebration to unveil his copies.

Secondly, it has been written many times this century that John W. Haseltine discovered and owned the 12 Original Confederate cents made by Robert Lovett, Jr. of Philadelphia. The story goes on to say that Mr. Lovett accidentally spent one of the twelve coins he made and that a bartender notified people of its existence. At this point Mr. Haseltine has been credited with discovering who made the coin. This would not have been hard for anyone collecting coins at the time, since the obverse design is the same as used by Mr. Lovett for his own advertising tokens dated 1860. While the reverse contained the designer's initial "L".

The problem is that for many years Mr. Haseltine, who struck restrikes of this coin in three different metals, went around making speeches proclaiming his sole involvement with the discovery and restriking of the Confederate One Cent. While it is obvious that he was involved in the coins restriking, it is his own words in 1874 which leaves doubt as to his being the discoverer and purchaser of the

original Confederate One Cent pieces. In his January 13, 14 and 14, 1874 sale Mr. Haseltine wrote the following for lot 665.

"CONFEDERATE CENT. 1861; head of Liberty; inscription, "Confederate States of America; rev., "1 Cent," in 2 lines, surrounded by a wreath of ears of corn and wheat, with a cotton bale at the bottom; nickel; very fine; excessively rare. [The dies for the above piece were made by Mr. Lovett, of Philadelphia, in 1861. Mr. Lovett says that they were ordered in 1861, for the South and that the dies were delivered. Previous to delivering the dies, he struck twelve pieces, but showed them to no one and kept the matter quiet, fearing that he might be arrested if it were known. It was not until about six months since Mr. Lovett parted with all he had (either ten or twelve) to Dr. E. Maris, of Philadelphia, from whom this one was obtained. Although it is evident that the Southern Confederacy did not adopt this piece, still it will always be considered interesting and valuable as the only coinage designed for the Southern Confederacy, and will no doubt bring a high price. I have been somewhat particular in giving the facts about this piece, as there are persons who always sneer at and doubt anything new and interesting that is discovered by other than themselves. J.W.H.]"

Two of the facts mentioned in the above statement are now known to be false. Mr. Lovett never turned over the dies to the Confederacy, and that this was the only coinage designed for the Confederacy (the Half Dollar would not be publicly known for another 4 to 5 years). But the most interesting part of this story is Mr. Haseltine's own words in 1874 was that Dr. Edward Maris, who already was known for his work on 1794 large cents and will always be remembered for his book on New Jersey Coinage, was the real owner of all the remaining coins in Mr. Lovett's hands in 1873.

More proof of Dr. Maris' ownership of the confederate cents is shown by the appearance of two more specimens in auctions containing Maris material. One was the famous 1886 H.P. Smith sale of the Maris collection. The second is the 1900 S.H. & H. Chapman sale of remaining coins from Dr. Maris' collection. It is even possible that it was Dr. Maris who obtained the dies from Robert Lovett, Jr., but, this we will never know. What we do know from Mr. Haseltine's own words is that it was Dr. Maris and not Mr. Haseltine who acquired the Confederate cents in 1873 from it's source.

These are examples of the reason I like collecting auction catalogs, because much information available in them is not found anywhere else. So, in order to find the truth it is best to go back to original sources and not just believe what myths have been created about our coinage. It should also be noted that in this same 1874 Haseltine sale was a 1776 Continental Currency copy by Dickerson struck in copper that was graded proof and noted as being on a thick planchet. This appeared as lot 969 of this Haseltine sale.

THE PRINTER'S DEVIL

Joel J. Orosz

That gifted chronicler of the lives and times of coin catalogs, John W. Adams, remarks in the preface to his magnificent *United States Numismatic Literature, Volume 1* (1982), that "the early catalogs are at once the most enjoyable and least understood part of the field." That this is so is undeniable, but no blame can be laid at Adams' door, nor at the feet of his spiritual partner of a century before Emmanuel Joseph Attinelli, whose *Numisgraphics* (1876) attempted to list every numismatic catalog published in America up to that time. Without their wide-ranging and methodical research, much of our knowledge about, even knowledge of, hundreds of 19th century coin sales would simply not exist.

These two are not the only heroes of the story, however, for Adams pays tribute in his preface to the ghosts of W. E. Woodward and Aaron Feldman. Feldman was one of the men who kept the flame of numismatic literature alive during the middle years of the current century, and he certainly deserves this doff of the hat from Adams. But it is to Woodward that all numismatic bibliophiles, and particularly those interested in 19th century catalogs, owe incalculable gratitude. Had it not been for a decision taken by Woodward in 1865, an unknowable number of 19th century catalogs would have completely disappeared. Without the originals to consult, Attinelli, and to an even greater extent, Adams, would have been reduced to guess work as to dates, consignors, and contents. Doubtless a great many would have been left unlisted in both *Numisgraphics* and *United States Numismatic Literature*. A close look at Woodward, and particularly at his sale number 39, the Jenison Collection, will serve to illuminate the actions of this savior of so much of our numismatic patrimony.

Adams tells us that William Elliot Woodward was born in Maine in 1825. In 1848, he moved to the Roxbury section of Boston, where he opened an apothecary shop that remained in business until he passed away in 1892. Woodward issued his first coin catalog in 1860, and rapidly attracted the "name" collections: the Reverend J. M. Finotti (1862); Jeremiah Colburn (1863); John F. McCoy (1864); and the grand daddy of them all, Joseph J. Mickley (1867). Charles Davis, editor of *The Asylum*, has chronicled (see Volume X, No. 1, Winter 1992), how Woodward then took a 10-year hiatus from numismatics, using his profits from the Mickley sale to enter large-scale property development activities in Boston. Returning to the coin game in 1877, Woodward continued to issue catalogs until 1890, a total in excess of 115 during his career.

In an age notorious for the extremely terse descriptions in coin catalogs, Woodward was a happy exception to the rule. "He is a strong believer in printer's ink," commented Attinelli, "and does not use it parsimoniously, as an examination

of the coin catalogs, prepared by him, will prove, and many of the notes from his familiarity with the subject will be found interesting to numismatists."

Brother Emmanuel was absolutely right, as a reading of the Jenison Collection will amply demonstrate. This sale, Woodward's 39th, was held on June 22-23, 1881. The title page tells us that the lead collection consisted of coins and medals from the collection of O. A. Jenison of Lansing, Michigan, to which was added other aggregations, including "a collection of old coin sale catalogs."

Before delving into the contents of the sale, however, it would be worthwhile to mention some biographical details of Orien Austin Jenison, a little-known early American numismatist. According to the *Michigan Pioneer Collections*, Volume 27, Jenison was born in Watertown, New York, on May 22, 1823. He immigrated to Detroit, landing on August 28, 1846, with nine silver dollars in his pocket, eight of which he immediately spent for necessary supplies, but the ninth he kept as a memento until his death. During this time, he supported himself as a writing master specializing in artistic penmanship. The Michigan Legislature moved the State Capital to Lansing in 1847, and on Christmas Day of that year, Jenison removed there to work in a land office. There followed a career as a clerk in the State government, a merchant, and finally as a bookkeeper for the *Lansing State Republican*, a newspaper.

Jenison's avocation was collecting, especially Michigan Indian artifacts, items of Lansing's local history, and, according to his obituary in the *Pioneer Collections*, "3,000 coins and medals . . . sold by him in New York City a number of years ago." The reference here is to Woodward's 39th sale, which was held in New York City, although there do not seem to be this many coins and medals actually offered in the catalog. O. A. Jenison passed away on August 6, 1895, but he left more than the Woodward sale as his legacy to numismatics. His son, Orien Austin, Junior, was the father of Austin Jenison (1893-1954), a Lansing insurance executive who, according to his entry in the *National Cyclopaedia of American Biography*, Volume 42, "collected coins, stamps, and rare dictionaries."

It is not the legacy of O. A. Jenison that concerns us the most, however, but rather that of W. E. Woodward. The Jenison Collection sale is chiefly remembered today because its early editions contained, on pages 52-55, Woodward's "Ichabod Crane" satire leveled at Woodward's fellow dealer, Ed. Frossard. In fact, Woodward was responding to a satirical jab from Frossard entitled, "The False Talisman," which Frossard had printed in the March 1881 issue of his house organ, *Numisma*. As tempting as it is to recount fully the story of these rhetorical salvos, your columnist refers the reader to *The Asylum*, Volume 1, Numbers 2 and 3 (Fall-Winter 1980), where John W. Adams reprints both pieces and supplements the story with his astute commentary.

Our attention will be confined to two other sections of the Jenison catalog, namely "Books and Pamphlets" on pages 16-19, and "Coin Sale Catalogs" on pages 35-39. It is in these sections that, as Attinelli said, Woodward left notes "very interesting to the numismatist."

The "Books and Pamphlets" section, judging from the Michigan Almanacs and reference works on the Indians that it offered, probably consisted of books from the Jenison Collection, although Woodward did not so state. Comprising lots 424-476, the section also included a number of numismatic delicacies, including *The American Journal of Numismatics*, Volumes V-XV; five volumes of *The Coin Collector's Journal*; two volumes of *Mason's Coin and Stamp Collectors Magazine*; and plated copies of Snowden's *Medallic Memorials of Washington* and *Description of Ancient and Modern Coins in the Cabinet of the U.S. Mint*.

The coin sale catalogs occupied lots 904-1030, and Woodward tells us nearly all were priced in ink, with a few having printed prices. His prefatory note is most informative; "it will be noticed that, with few exceptions, these catalogs were issued from 10-26 years ago, and, as collectors are aware, nearly all catalogs of that period are rare. About 16 years ago, I commenced purchasing from dealers and others, their remainders of catalogs, and continued to do so until the attainable stock was exhausted; many of these, where the number was large, went to the paper mill, but what I deemed a suitable number were reserved for sale. A comparison of the different lists which I have issued will show the comparative meagerness of my present stock, rare catalogs one after another being dropped from each successive list. Of several of the following I cannot furnish a duplicate."

So it was that, as the Civil War was ending, Woodward launched his own crusade to preserve the records of early American coin auction sales. While the present-day numismatist will wince at the thought of duplicate Cogan sales being made into newspapers, it is undoubtedly true that without Woodward's intervention, untold thousands of sales both humble and grand would have suffered this fate. A quick perusal of lots 904-1030 shows how timely Woodward's intervention was.

No fewer than five pre-1860 catalogs are offered, including the very rare Flandin & Kline Sales of 1855 (see Printer's Devil in *The Asylum*, Volume XI: 3). Among the other highlights were the Morse Sale (1860), the sale of Attinelli's personal collection (1863), an extremely rare Broadside from Thomas & Sons (1864), and a series of 26 priced Edward Cogan Sales, ranging from 1873 to 1879. The last 30 lots in this section were reserved for illustrated and thick-paper editions, including a Seavy with four plates (1873); a Macallister on tinted paper, one of only 10 issued (1873); a Stenz on heavy tinted paper with black and gold cover (1875); and a plated Ferguson Haines on thick paper (1880). Interestingly, while selling this lot, Woodward also extended a standing offer to buy copies of the Haines catalog at \$1 apiece.

A fascinating note is found under lot 923, which offers the July 29, 1861, Freeman offering of the Daniel E. Groux Collection. In *Numisgraphics*, Attinelli notes, "but a few lots were put up and bought in, and the sale was stopped." Woodward adds, "most of the libraries afterwards came to me in six enormous boxes, which, besides the books, contained a large quantity of newspapers and files, together with a vast amount of private papers, from which an astonishing biography of the Old French Adventurer, who was the first of his line of coin sharps and self-styled experts, might be compiled. Most of his books and papers went appropriately to the junk store; the manuscripts I still treasure."

Daniel E. Groux was one of the bonafide characters of American numismatics. His hallmark was the grandiose but unfulfilled scheme, the encyclopedic three-volume reference work covering all American coinage, which Charles Davis, in *American Numismatic Literature* tells us never got beyond an impressive 1856 prospectus, and a plan to make a killing by conducting a lottery to sell his collection. One can hope that the Groux manuscripts that Woodward preserved are still in existence, for a biography of "the fond old dreamer" (as Davis quotes William Strobridge referring to him), would be a most welcome edition to the arcana of numismatic literature.

Fortunately for future generations of numismatic bibliophiles, the ominous note that Woodward had struck in the introduction to the Coin Sale Catalogs with regard to the "meagerness" of his stock proved to be a false alarm. The Roxbury Apothecary continued to aggressively buy old auction catalogs during the decade of life that remained for him after the Jenison sale. Upon his death in 1892, there were literally thousands in his great hoard. Fortunately, they passed to an early member of the American Numismatic Association, Mr. Alexander Parker Wylie, who preserved them for future collectors. Another keeper of the numismatic literature flame, Frank Katzen, then sold the Woodward-Wylie hoard in a series of five auctions (Katzen Sales 44, 45, 46, 48, and 51). A total of 4,944 catalogs was dispersed to appreciative modern collectors. A full and fascinating account of the history of this literary treasure trove can be found in *The Asylum* Volume XI, Number 1 (Winter 1993), authored by John W. Adams.

If anything should ever convince us that we are less owners and more custodians of numismatic literature, it should be the experience of W. Elliot Woodward. Given the small prices fetched by auction catalogs in the 19th century, and given the vast numbers he purchased, Woodward surely lost money on his literature dealings. But he proved to be a superb steward of the irreplaceable knowledge to be found in the early catalogs, knowledge that has informed and continues to illuminate American numismatics, now and into the future. Would that we be found as faithful when our time of judgment arrives.

CHAPMAN ON 1794 LARGE CENTS, 1923, 1926A, 1926B

Denis W. Loring

In 1923, S. H. Chapman published the first edition of his book on 1794 large cents. This book was quarto, with dark blue gilt-lettered covers and a plain spine. It is believed that 100 numbered copies were issued. The book contained numerous errors and was purportedly recalled by Chapman. It remains one of the great rarities in large cent literature with perhaps ten copies traced today.

The second edition appeared in 1926, also published quarto with dark blue covers. It is well known that the book comes both with and without lettering ("1794 Cents --- Chapman") on the spine as well as on the cover. George Kolbe's sale of a portion of John Adams' library (June 1990: Lots 10, 11) contained one example of each. No particular notice had been made of this difference except as a "binding variant" as described in Kolbe February 1990: lot 177.

For the 1926 edition, a print run of 200 copies is widely accepted. Indeed many copies of the book are numbered like the 1923 edition, with several higher than 100 but none higher than 200. However, in his introduction to the Quarterman reprint, John Adams suggests an edition of 300 "judging from present availability." Sure enough, numerous additional 1926 Chapmans are unnumbered lending credence to John's estimate.

I obtained my copy of Chapman in 1970 and had never given it much thought. It is unnumbered with a plain spine. Recently I purchased a small group of large cent books from a collector. Included was a 1926 Chapman, this No.163 with a lettered spine. I became curious, called a few collectors and the A. N. S. and asked each to check his copy. While the sample is not that large, every numbered book has a lettered spine, while every unnumbered book has a plain spine. Actually since this is a book on 1794s, maybe "lettered edge" and "plain edge" are more appropriate terms. For now, let's call them 1926a and 1926b. I then began a side by side comparison of the two books, and immediately saw some differences.

- The "Style 1" "Style 2" etc. headings in the body of the text are in different typefaces in the two books. The 1926a headings match 1923; those in 1926b are different.

- Although the wording is identical. The typefaces on the copyright page of 1926a, which is also the page with the serial number, are noticeably smaller than the corresponding typefaces in 1926b. Here the latter matches the 1923.

- Pages 4-8 of 1926a are all headed "The Cents of 1794." (Note the period). Page 9 is headed "The Cents of 1794." On page 5 of 1926b, the period after 1794 is missing, and page 9 is headed "The Cents of the Year 1794." with a period.

So far, one can argue that these are all cosmetic differences. Are there any changes in the actual text indicating that the book was, in fact, fully reprinted? Indeed there are.

1926a, page 9, third paragraph: "... that is, when the piece is tilted toward the spectator with the head upward, it will read, *or it may be upside down*" (emphasis mine).

1926b, same place: "... that is when the piece is tilted toward the spectator, with the head upward it will read, *or when turned with the date upwards, it will be upside down and vice versa.*" This is the wording that was used in 1923 and is clearer than the abbreviated 1926a version.

Also note the rarity of Chapman 8, State A (page 12), which in the 1923 edition is R5, 1926a is R2 - a typographical error- and in 1926b is R5 - corrected.

How do we know that the 1926a came first? Perhaps the page 9 wording quoted above was continued from 1923 to 1926b, then changed for 1926a? In the listing for Chapman 8, maybe "R5" was an error in the 1923 edition that was repeated in 1926b, then finally corrected in 1926a? Consider the last sentence of Chapman 9, Reverse (page 12).

1926a: "Center mark on side of upright N below. diagonal bar." The period after "below" is clearly extraneous.

1926b. "Center mark on side of upright N below diagonal bar." The erroneous period has been removed.

The conclusive evidence, though, is in the numbering. All known copies of 1923 are numbered 1-100, and all copies of 1926a I have surveyed are numbered 101-200. It makes no sense to produce copies 1-100, then a quantity of unnumbered copies, and then revert to numbering where the earlier numbers left off.

I therefore propose the following. The 1926 edition of Chapman exists in two distinct printings. The first printing corrected many errors from 1923, but introduced a few new ones. This printing was another numbered edition of 100, all bound with lettered spines. The demand exceeded the supply, and Chapman made a few additional corrections from the 1926a text and released a second printing, probably 200, unnumbered with plain spines.

In an attempt to confirm my hypothesis, and to get a fix on the relative populations of 1926a and 1926b, I would like to enlist the help of N.B.S readers. If you have a copy of the 1926 Chapman and/or know where one is, please drop me a note indicating: 1) Lettered spine or plain spine? 2) Unnumbered or numbered? What number? I will take a similar poll among EACers and will report the combined results. Please send your response to Denis Loring, Box 363, New York, NY 10101. As you may know, at the 1994 A.N.A. Convention, a new variety of 1794 cent was discovered proving that you never know what is out there. It is true for books as well.

C'MON IN, THE E-MAIL'S FINE
Wayne Homren

I would like to encourage all N.B.S. members who have access to a computer to consider using electronic mail ("e-mail") for communications with fellow members. Once you get started, you will find it to be a marvelously easy way to keep in touch with old friends or make new ones. I have used e-mail for years, but my first numismatic use was shortly after the 1993 A.N.A. Convention when I exchanged e-mail addresses with Michael Hodder. I have since developed a regular numismatic correspondence with collectors around the country. My most frequent pen pal is Bob Metzger of Texas, editor of the T. N. A. journal and co-editor with Michael Hodder of the C4Newsletter. Bob and I have been friends for ages, seeing each other only once a year at the A.N.A. Convention. But we exchange messages on a daily basis throughout the year keeping up on hobby and personal events, sharing gossip, and basically chewing the fat on various numismatic subjects.

Other correspondents have included Harry Bass, artist J.S.G. Boggs, Ken Bressett, A.N.A. Librarian Lynn Chen, *Asylum* editor Charles Davis, Dan Freidus, Gail Kraljevich, and C.N.L. Newsletter Jim Spillman. Harry Bass suggested publishing a directory of N.B.S. member e-mail addresses, and I will start with this issue. In an e-mail message December 22, Bass wrote:

"In almost every *Asylum* issue, I read at least one item that causes me to want to communicate my comments (plus or minus) to the author. Never have done so, however, because of my laziness and the hassle of any such having to be read and forwarded by the editor. With my love of computers for many years and the fairly recent popularity of E-mail, I have found that I have written more letters/notes to people within the last six months than in my entire preceding life."

Most people who use e-mail get access from their place of employment or from one of the major "on-line" services such as CompuServe or America Online. Check with the computer support staff at your company or online service for information on getting started with e-mail. Many companies and most of the major online services now have e-mail connections to the Internet, the global computer network connecting millions of people around the world.

Although it may sound complicated, using e-mail is usually easy to learn and use. It is as simple as typing a message and pressing a button. You do not have to lick a stamp, and your message is transmitted almost instantly to the addressee wherever he or she is in the world. If the recipient happens to read and reply to your message right away, you will get your response within minutes rather than the days or weeks it might take via regular mail.

Here is an initial list of Internet e-mail addresses. Just drop me a note if you wish to be included in a subsequent list. Each of the below has given permission to publish his address, and we would love to hear from you.

Harry Bass	harrybass@delphi.com
Charlie Davis	numislit@aol.com
or	76121.2006@compuserve.com
Michael Hodder	mhodder@world.std.com
or	73767.606@compuserve.com
Wayne Homren	homren@cgi.com
Bob Metzger	metzger@tenet.edu

Your editor heartily concurs, having first used e-mail in 1984 - the IBM product PROFS, a standard used in many large corporations and the Federal government. The benefits in a corporate environment - the immediacy and convenience of a telephone call without the expense, the avoidance of telephone tag with people who are never available, and the permanency of the written record (e-mail be stored and saved electronically or printed out) apply to individuals as well. Thanks to the Internet, e-mail is seamlessly directed to users on virtually any system.

THE ARMAND CHAMPA LIBRARY SALE, PART ONE
Michael J. Sullivan

October 1994 was the month of speculation. When will the catalogue arrive? What will be included in the first sale? November 1994 was the month of anticipation. Who will be the big buyers? Will periodicals be hot? How high will the estimates be? Will catalogues find a small market? How much can I spend? Will the sale attract new buyers with unlimited budgets shutting out the average collector? Should I pay a premium for an Alan Grace binding? Of course, the answers were provided November 17th by the close of the first part of the Armand Champa Library Sale conducted by Bowers and Merena, Inc.

Bowers & Merena produced an outstanding catalogue with Charles Davis being credited with writing the lot descriptions which provided a detailed, bibliographic depiction of the literature and historical background. The well written descriptions coupled with excellent photography by Cathy Dumont in color and black and white provide and excellent numismatic literature reference.

Lot viewing was offered November 16-17 in Baltimore. Many collectors used the opportunity to view items they had never seen before. Dr. Charles Horning reviewed the Bangs, Merwin & Co. Catalogues in great detail. John Adams was seen viewing numerous 19th century catalogues, Bob Vail the copper literature;

David Davis the counterfeit detectors. Several numismatic literature dealers including John Bergman and George Kolbe obviously had commissions to view lots and bid for their clients. In general, most individuals used the Champa sale as an opportunity to view material not in their normal grasp even if they were not interested in securing the item from the sale.

As anticipated, periodicals brought very strong prices at the sale. A complete set of the *Chicago Coin Club Bulletin* realized \$495 to an advanced floor bidder. George Dillingham's *The Coin Circular*, 1875-1877 attracted attention during lot viewing and at the sale realized \$880 after opening at \$250. The complete set of *The Elder Monthly Magazine* realized \$935. A surprise was Ed Frossard's *Numisma* was commanded \$4620 on a \$2500 estimate, well above most people's guesses. A cute, commendable periodical, Lee Hewitt's *The Illinois Trader* realized \$467. A surprise was Hiram Deats' complete set of *Mason's Monthly Magazine*, which realized "only" \$2090 on a estimate of \$2000, despite numerous collectors previewing the lot.

Standard reference works and ephemera in the \$200-\$1000 price range were strongly sought by mail and floor bidders. Examples include the 1875 and 1878 copies of Crosby's *Early Coins of America* which brought \$1540 and \$935 respectively. The sole publication by Joseph J. Mickley *Dates of U.S. Coins and Their Degrees of Rarity*, 1858, brought \$346. The Wayte Raymond monograph *Private Gold Coins Struck in the U.S., 1830-1861*, bound in leather attracted several floor bidders finally bringing \$275. W. E. Woodward's 1862 *Remarks. A Table Giving the Year of Coinage of All American Coins* was eagerly sought by floor bidders opening at \$175 on an estimate of \$250 before selling for \$715.00

Items surprising the audience included lot 88, a Thomas Birch and Sons 1871 broadside unknown to Attinelli. The lot opened at \$250 climbing to a final selling price of \$1210. Walter Breen's notes on patterns rocketed from \$600 to \$3190. The under bidder, a well known bust coinage dealer, walked out of the sale room in disgust. Breen's notes, correspondence and research material brought very strong prices across the board, many selling to one advanced collector.

The small size plated Chapman catalogues were the key disappointment in the sale. While 25 of the 27 offered sold, most failed to reach their pre-sale estimates, and bidding was very limited. Only the King and Sleicher sales attracted strong bidding. The excessively rare J. M. Henderson catalogue fetched only \$3520 on a \$5000 estimate. Most of the plated Chapmans sold to "the regulars."

The highlights of the sale all involved paper money. Raphael Thian's *Register of the Confederate Debt*, one of five copies published, sold for \$11,550. Spencer Clark's *Fractional Currency Presentation* album brought \$14,850, while Thian's *Currency of the Confederate States* sold for \$25,300 to noted Confederate specialist Hugh Schull. The best bargains in the sale were generally the

\$2500/\$7500 items such as the Henry Chapman's catalogue of the John Story Jenks collection with consignor's receipts which sold for \$2860 on a \$4000 estimate. Chapman's 1923 edition of *United States Cents of the Year 1794* fetched only \$1760 on a \$2500 estimate. The full leather edition of the Heath "Bond Detector" and William Lee's personal copy of his *Currency of the Confederate States of America* went unsold. The Mickley diary was sold back to its original owner for \$3960, well below its \$6000 estimate. Were estimates too high for these items or is the market decidedly thin above the \$2500 level? Hopefully estimates for future large ticket items will be reduced in line with market demand.

Despite the announced 6000+ copy distribution of the sale catalog, buyers were limited. According to the auction firm, over 300 bid sheets were received, and 100+ registered for the sale, some representing additional clients. Overall it did not appear that Bowers & Merena attracted too many new bidders as was speculated prior to the sale. The phantom "sugar daddies" appeared to have melted away.

Sale attendees were pleased to see that Alan Grace attended the sale. It was a great opportunity for collectors to meet with the man entrusted by Mr. Champa to rebind and restore numerous books in his library during the past dozen years.

Regardless of the number of items purchased, dream items lost, or pre-sale wrangling, the audience was pleased and euphoric following the sale. In numerous phone calls with dealers and collectors following the sale, all credit a wonderful catalog and a good sale. Hopefully the numismatic literature community is now at peace and ready to move forward. It now time to prepare for Champa sale Two. What do you anticipate?

SALE CATALOGUES OF M. H. BOLENDER David Hirt

During some snowbound winter days, I pulled some of my catalogues of M. H. Bolender in order to learn some more of this man and the auctions he conducted. I also checked some of his earlier ads in *The Numismatist*. In the foreword of his 100th and again in his 150th sale, Bolender gives his autobiography; the 150th also has his photograph. He states that his ancestors had come to America from Holland in the 1730s settling in Pennsylvania. In the 1840s they moved to Illinois where he was born and raised. He served in the Army during WWI, married in the 1930s and related that he and his wife enjoyed home, neighbors, friends, and Church. For many years he lived and conducted his sales from Orangeville, Il. In 1939 he moved to Freeport, Il and in 1953 to San Marino, California where his last fourteen sales were conducted in the warmer climate.

He himself gives three different dates of his involvement with coins. In his biographies he used 1907 and 1912. His ad in the 1925 *Numismatist* cites "15 years of earnest dealing." In a 1924 ad, he mentions that collectors could receive his monthly circular. In November 1924, his ad stated that auctions were held "every month - next sale November 17." The first 9 Bolender sales are unknown. Adams states that he has not seen them. In the foreword to the 100th sale, he notes "My first auction was in 1923, the sale was about 100 lots and the catalogue a folder of a couple of pages only."

The only Bolender sale with plates is No. 110 which has three plates of ancient coins. While for the most part Bolender sales lack high priced varieties of Mehl catalogues, they have a very interesting range of coins, tokens, medals, and paper money. One of his consignments was that of A.P. Wylie, well known to bibliomaniacs for his hoard of auction sale catalogues.

The consignment that intrigued me the most was that of the estate of A. M. Smith, a coin dealer in Philadelphia in the 1880s, and the author of Smith's *Encyclopedia of Coins*. Bolender relates that the collection was shipped to him in five boxes weighing 500 pounds. It had over 15,000 coins including thousands of large cents and half cents, 7500 proof coins of the United States including over 1500 proof sets. Proofs included 300 pieces of the 1873 3-cent silver, half the entire mintage! Also included was a complete set of the coinage of 1884, even the Trade Dollar, struck in copper. The catalogue stated that Smith had obtained this set in 1884 from the Superintendent of the Mint. Bolender, it seems, was able to dispose of the 3-cent pieces judiciously to avoid breaking the market.

Of course the name Bolender is well known for its connection to die varieties of silver dollars, but that is not this thrust of this discourse. I hope that it will stir interest in M. H. Bolender and his sale catalogues.

THE NUMISMATIC LIBRARY OF FRANK & LAURESE KATEN, PART 2

Ken Lowe

Frank and Laurese Katen held the second part of the sale of their library on November 18 and 19 in Linthicum, Maryland, a Baltimore suburb. The 1902 lots featured numerous references on the numismatics of Latin America and the Far East. Also offered were hundreds of lots on tokens, medals, jetons, and paper money with special highlight of numerous Keller works on notgeld. In cataloguing this sale, Frank must have had a real problem in listing estimates for the many items that have not been offered in years. Before the sale, Frank announced that he had received mail bids from 414 bidders, the largest number of mail bidders for any numismatic literature sale of which we are aware on this continent, a grand tribute to the Katens.

The first session of the auction was held Friday 7:30. My Money Tree partner, Myron Xenos and his wife Daryl attended the first session. After Thursday night at the Champa sale, I was auctioned out. The sale was of special importance for Myron featuring an extensive number of one of his specialties - ANA reprints. The ANA has reprinted over 125 articles since about 1905. Although there is no official listing anywhere of all of the ANA reprints, in this seemingly modest (in comparison to the Champa sale) auction, there were about two dozen pieces that Myron did not have, most which he had never even heard of.

There were a large number of floor bidders at the sale, the Champa sale bringing in some people who otherwise would probably not have attended. Among the 30 or so floor bidders whom Myron and I knew were John Bergman, John Burns, Phil Carrigan, David and Mollie Hirt, and Harrington Manville.

While many of the lots did not carry especially high estimates, this sale was truly a numismatist's delight as many popular, truly scarce and important references were featured in this sale of the Katens' reference library. Many of the titles, though carrying low estimates, had only appeared rarely in the marketplace. Among the highlights of the first session were Woodward's 96th sale, devoted to a sale of books; Lyman Low's 1895 *Observations on the Practice of Counterfeiting*, a scarce 1895 AJN offprint; a rare copy of Mehl's *Star Coin Book Junior*; an excellent copy of Prime's 1861 *Coins, Medals, and Seals*; an 1862 constitution of the Numismatic Society of Montreal; George Hill's 1927 *Select Greek Coins*; the 1965-1967 reprint of Neumann's German work on world-wide copper coins.

The second session began at 1:00 PM Saturday. Remy Bourne was manning a table in the back of the room, registering new bidders. For those who do not know, after many years as owner of RAMM Communications in Minneapolis, Remy has just started a new business specializing in numismatic literature and bought the remaining inventory of the Katens. At the dais were Frank and Laurese Katen, John Huffman, and Gordon Frost.

With most of the people present being longtime friends of the Katens, this was a rather intimate and relaxed proceeding. An indicator was the dozens of fresh baked, still warm cookies that Laurese brought in for the attendees. Soon after the start of this session, a trend developed that would continue through the end of the sale. John Bergman was a strong buyer for everything of quality.

Some highlights. Although there are relatively few collectors of the coinage of India, the pertinent literature is elusive to rare. The 35 lots generally sold at estimate or above. The three Alphaeus Albert books on historical buttons all sold over estimate. The five lots of R.C. Bell books on British tokens sold over estimate. Lot 893, a pamphlet by Pliny Chase on Rebellion [Civil War] Tokens unlisted in Attinelli and listed in Davis as "No sales recorded") and estimated at \$5.00 saw spirited bidding between Bergman and ... me. I got it for about \$60.00.

Myron got all of the ANA reprints which he needed. Though priced modestly, many of them were quite rare, more than a few had been previously unlisted and were generally unknown. I also picked up a few scarce and special Numismatic Scrapbook reprints (a specialty of mine) and offprints that I needed. 85 lots of Muscalus paper money monographs were offered. I picked up a deluxe edition of Fred Schwan's 1981 book on MPC's. Only about a dozen copies were produced. The Keller volumes on Notgeld were sought by many, and at strong prices. They so rarely come to the market that Frank didn't even put estimates on them. Lot 1531, an 1891 ANS exhibit catalogue of medallic portraits ("Unbelievably nice!") estimated at \$10.00 was won by Bergman. This was the first copy I have seen. Bergman also bought Eidlitz's 1928 folio-sized, sumptuous *Medallic Portraits of Matthew Boulton and James Watt*. He and I butted heads again over a circa 1895 tome by Ralph Heaton and Sons, *the Mint: Birmingham*, estimated at \$25.00. At over \$100, Bergman bought the lot for a British customer.

With only one 15 minute break at the halfway point of the auction, Frank called the entire auction, a fascinating comparison and contrast to the Bowers & Erena sale of the Champa library the previous night. In both cases it is obvious that both numismatic literature and numismatic bibliomania are alive and well. Yet despite the average price of more than \$500 for the Champa lots, the Katen sale may have actually been more numismatically significant. It demonstrated there is a strong demand for useful numismatic information at all price levels in all fields. Thus, the plethora of numismatic literature sales between October and December seemed to have a negligible effect on the bidding in the Champa and Katen sales.

The sale brought a wide variety of references. Despite modest estimates, many titles were decidedly rare. It is quite clear that the upcoming Katen sales will also be full of much worthwhile material with the exciting possibilities of the rare and previously unknown. You will not want to miss Part 3.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE.

P. Scott Rubin

Every two years NBS has elections. In the past it has been said by some that these are not really elections because there are no choices. Most officers have run unopposed, and on only a few occasions have there been more than six people running for the board. Well this is not true today. I have asked everyone to suggest nominations, rather than have a committee purpose a slate of officers. Because of this we have two people running for president, two for vice president, and twelve running for the six board positions. Frank Van Zandt is running unopposed for Secretary - Treasurer.

I feel that all of the people running are qualified, if for no other reason they have shown a desire, by accepting the nomination to run and they have stated they will do their best for N.B.S. It is now up to you to return your ballots which will accompany this issue of *The Asylum*. The deadline for returning the ballots is March 1st. I wish all those running good luck!

We have come off a very exciting time as numismatic bibliophiles. We have had the Champa - Part I, Katen - Part II and Kolbe-Spink sales to end 1994. The hobby has received great press in the last year because of these events and through coverage in *Coinage Magazine*. The great prices and unusual items in the three mentioned sales were all impressive. The Thians in the Champa sale, the unusual publications offered by Katen, to the near complete set of Woodward's sold by Kolbe, names only the highlights of these fine events. I am sure 1995 will bring even more interest in the numismatic literature field with Champa parts 2, 3 and 4, Katen parts 3 and 4 along with sales from Kolbe, Money Tree, Davis, Function Associates, Orville Grady and John Bergman. A List of those running for office in NBS is as follows:

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Wayne Homren, Pittsburgh, PA
P. Scott Rubin, Lawrenceville, NJ

Vice President:

Fred Lake, St Petersburg, FL
Michael Sullivan, Cincinnati, OH

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John J. Ford, Jr., Phoenix, AZ	Col Bill Murray, San Antonio, TX
David Hirt, Frederick, MD	Joel Orosz, Kalamazoo, MI
Michael Hodder, Wolfeboro, NH	Bill Yost, Anaheim, CA

For those of you who may not be familiar with some of the names of the non incumbents, **John Burns** has served the A.N.A. for a number of years often coordinating the Numismatic Theater; **John Ford** is a retired cataloguer and former principal of the New Netherlands Coin Company; **David Hirt** is a longtime N.B.S.

member and frequent contributor to *The Asylum*; **Charles Horning** is a dentist from the Cincinnati area and a regular attendee at major coin shows; **George Kolbe** is a numismatic literature dealer and Charter Member of N.B.S.; **Harrington Manville** is retired from the U.S. Foreign Service and is the author of two bibliographies published by Spink & Son. **Col Bill Murray** is a frequent contributor to the numismatic press; **Bill Yost** is a private businessman from California and has been a coin collector for 35 years.

FROM THE EDITOR

Fred Lake writes:

"On January 7, the Southeast region of the Numismatic Bibliomania Society held a meeting during the annual Florida Numismatists convention in Orlando. The informal meeting was presided over by Fred Lake, regional coordinator, and was attended by Charles Horning, Brad Karoleff, Ed Price, Jan Monroe, John Wilson, John Esbach, Jack Harvey, Eugene Sternlicht, Jon Warshawsky, George Fitzgerald, Terry Stahurski, Tom Smith, and O.T. Thompson. A complete set of *The Asylum* was displayed and commented on. In addition there were numerous pieces of literature that the participants were asked to help themselves to. Included were some very early editions of *The Numismatist*, Ed. Frossard catalogues, etc. Suggestions from the floor included the printing of short biographies of the various candidates for office in our society. This could be accomplished at less expense by printing them on one sheet folded for insert into the applicable issue. Floor comment was also heard regarding the printing of members names. The consensus was that the member's name and state of residence would be enough. A meeting of the member clubs in the F. U. N. Organization was held the same day, and a gavel was presented which in turn is being forwarded to the president of N. B. S.

Michael Hodder writes:

"My review of Harrington Manville's *Numismatic Guide to British and Irish Periodicals* contained a couple of typographical errors - Second paragraph, second from the last line, last word should have been 'breadth'. I didn't mean to imply that Harrington's work was so weighty a tome that carrying it left one breathless. Fourth paragraph, third line from the end, 'wide' should read 'wife' (i.e. 'Mould and his wife', not 'Mould and his wide'). I have no idea how wide Mould's wife was and I didn't want to suggest that Weight Watchers might have been good for her."

(Re) "Mr. Raphael Ellenbogen's short essay . . . (he) forgets that, apart from those of us 'who write and publish' there are sophisticated collectors of coins who enjoy reading old catalogue descriptions of coins they now own. Not to mention the fact that plate matching can establish pedigree and pedigree can add as much as 30% to the sales value of a coin. The suggestion that old catalogues aren't all that useful because the coins they picture are illustrated elsewhere is too silly to bother with. As for bibliophilic catalogue collectors being characterized as "addicts," well ... I've seen some who do shake and moan after reading a Kolbe or Davis mail bid sale, but a quick fix with an autograph on the latest Bowers book seems to set them straight, so the addiction can't be too dangerous."

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N.B.S. Membership: \$15 annual dues for North American addresses, \$20/year elsewhere. All members receive *The Asylum* for the current calendar year. Requests for membership should be submitted to The Secretary-Treasurer.

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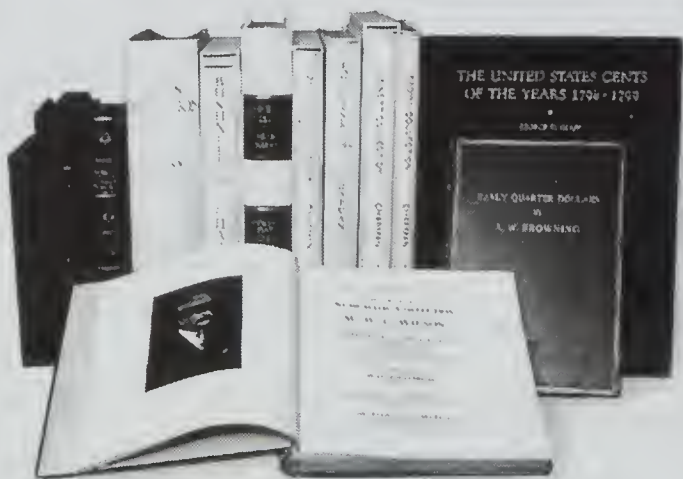
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